

**Transcription of the Bill of Complaint filed in the Lawsuit
of Bedford v. Bedford, Broughton, Hampshire**

Dated 26 June 1585

TNA Catalogue Reference: TNA C 3/205/31

**[Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series II,
Elizabeth I to Interregnum]**

1. [?] 26 Junij 1585 To the right Honorable S^{[i]r} Thomas Bromley Knight
4 :
2. 13 31 Lord Chauncelor of Englande
3. In most humble wyse Complayninge sheweth vnto yo[ure] good Lordshipp yo[ure] Suppliant Orator John Bedford of Broughton in the Countie of Sutht [i.e. Hampshire, ff.] Husbandman that whereas Richard Bedford
4. father of yo[ure] Lordshipps sayd Orator was seised in his demesne as of free holde for terme of his lyffe of and in one messuage and xxviiij acres of Lande scituate lieinge and
5. beinge in Broughton aforesayd in the sayd Countie of Sutht ^with all and singular orchardes gardens medowes leasures pastures com[m]ens proffitt[es] com[m]odities and advantages to the sayd tenement belonginge or in any wyse appertayninge^ the reversion thereof to one Edward Bedford his eldest sonne brother of yo[ure] sayd Orator and the sayd Richard beinge
6. thereof soe seised about November last past for and in consideracion of a mariage to be had and solemnized betwene yo[ure] sayd Orator and one Elizabeth Dyk[es] daughter
7. of William Dyk[es] and for the advauncement of youre sayd Orator his sonne in the sayd marriage did graunt by worde that yo[ure] sayd Orator shold have and enioye
8. the sayd messuage and xxviiij acres of Lande ^w[i]th all and singular orchard[es] gardens [sic.] medowes leasures pastures com[m]iens [sic.] proffitt[es] com[m]odities and advantag[es] to the sayd tenem[en]t belonginge or in any wyse appertayninge^ for by and duringe the naturall lyffe of the sayd Richard his father : And ~~als~~ after the deth and decease of his sayd father

9. he yo[ure] sayd Orator shold have for by and duringe his owne naturall lyffe one other tenement & fowre acres of Lande and a close adioyninge vnto the sayd tenement
10. scituate & beinge in broughton ~~at~~ aforesayd fyndinge and providinge for the sayd Richard Bedford his father Computent meate drinke lodginge and apparell meete
11. and fytt for him duringe his naturall lyffe vnto w[hi]ch sayd p[ro]mise graunte & agrement the sayd Edward Bedford havinge the reversion of the p[re]miss[es]
12. did therevnto consent and agree : After which sayd graunte made and fulley concluded and the sayd marriage solemnized and fynished betwene youre sayd
13. Orator and the sayd Elizabeth the sayd Richard Bedford yo[ure] Orators sayd father did deliuer vnto youre sayd Orator the quiet and peaseable possession
14. of the sayd tenement and xxvij acres of Lande ^and all and singular other the p[re]miss[es] w[i]th thappurten[a]nc[es]^ and he youre sayd Orator quietly did holde vse occupie and manure the same and did
15. sowe part thereof with corne which yett is standinge and [g]rowinge vppon the grounde But nowe soe it is and it may please youre
16. good Lordshipp the sayd Richard Bedford takinge some d[is]pleasure against youre sayd Orator through the p[er]swasion of the sayd Edward
17. Bedford yo[ure] Orators brother whoe seeketh by all means [to] ta[ke] the sayd premisiss[es] from youre sayd Orator to the ende he him self might have
18. the occupation thereof hath entred in and vppon the sayd messuage and from the possession thereof hath eicted youre sayd Orator and
19. myndeth also to enter and dispossesse yo[ure] sayd Orator of the sayd xxvij acres of Lande ^& other the p[re]miss[es]^ and to reape and take all such Corne and grayne
20. which hath byn sowed by youre sayd Orator in and vppon the premiss[es] contrarie to there sayd graunt and agrement And not this
21. contente soe to expulse yo[ure] sayd Orator from the premiss[es] he the sayd Richard throughe the perswasion of the sayd Edward his sonne daylie
22. threatneth yo[ure] sayd Orator that he shall neither have after his decease the sayd other tenem[en]t Close and fowre acres of Lande which will

23. be the utter vndoinge of youre sayd Orator beinge a poore mann vnles he maye be by youre good Lordshipp ayded in this most honorable Court
24. And for that that youre sayd Orator hath not any deed writinge or testemoney to prove the sayd promyse and graunt made by his sayd father
25. and consent therevnto by his sayd brother Edward Bedford ~~h~~ yett notw[i]thstandinge he vereley trusteth that the sayd Richard his father
26. and Edward his brother will confesse boeth the sayd p[ro]mise and consent therevnto vppon their othes in this honorable Court whereby youre
27. good Lordshipp maye accordinge to equitye and consience take some order therein : Maye it therefore please yo[ure] good Lordshipp in tender
28. consideracion of the p[re]miss[es] to graunt vnto youre sayd Orator the Quenes Ma[jes]ties most gracious write of Sub pena to be directed
29. vnto the sayd Richard Bedford & Edward Bedford com[m]aundinge them thereby att a c[er]tayne daye and vnder a payne therein by youre
30. good Lordshipp to be lymited p[er]sonallie to appeare before yo[ure] good L:[ordshipp] in the Quenes Ma[jes]ties most honorable Court of Chauncerye then
31. and there to answeare to the p[re]miss[es] And to abyde such order therein as shall seme to yo[ure] good L:[ordshipp] to stande w[i]th equitye and
32. consience And yo[ure] sayd Orator shall praye unto god for yo[ure] L:[ordships] lyffe longe to endure w[i]th increase of honore

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Chan. Proc. Series 2.

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